Proposal for Model Prison Act and Standardisation of Jail Manual

*252. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to prepare any Model Prison Act as the existing Act has become very old for adoption by the State Governments in view of the changed circumstances;

(b) whether Government also propose to standardise the Jail Manual in order to bring uniformity as the present Jail Manual differs from State to State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in both the above cases?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Although 'Prisons' is a State subject under the Constitution, an interaction has been undertaken with the State Governments with a view to consulting them on the lines on which the law/manuals relating to Prison Administration may be modified.

Private Sector Participation in National Waterways

*253. SHRI ANANTRAM JAISWAL: SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of national waterways which are proposed to be used for river transport;

(b) whether private sector will be involved in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details in regard to inviting tenders on Build-Operate-and-Transfer basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) The Government of India have declared the following three Waterways as National Waterways to be used for river transport:

(i) The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Haldia to Allahabad (1620 kms.) as National Waterway No. 1.

(ii) The Brahmaputra between Bangladesh Border to Sadiya (891 kms.) as National Waterway No. 2 and

(iii) The West Coast Canal from Kollam to Kottapuram (168 kms.) alongwith Udyogmandal Canal (23 kms.) and Champakara Canal (14 kms.) as National Waterway No. 3.

(b) Private sector involvement is being explored by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in the following areas:

(i) Operation of cargo vessels.

(ii) Construction and maintenance of Terminals.

(iii) Provision and operation of cargo handling facilities.

(iv) Dredging, and

(v) Provision of navigational aids.

(c) The IWAI has formulated a Scheme of Privatisation in the IWT sector, including procedural details for private sector participation, which is required to be approved by the Government after due consideration.

Agreement with Foreign Countries

*254. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agreements which have been signed with the foreign countries during the recent visit of the Prime Minister; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB